

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

a concentric speed reducer having a first end and a second end, with the first end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the motor assembly and the second end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the seal pedestal;

a first flange at the first end of the speed reducer;

a second flange at the second end of the speed reducer;

a cylindrical cover that has an inner surface that defines an inner diameter and that substantially surrounds the speed reducer and substantially extends from the first end of the speed reducer to the second end of the speed reducer;

a first elastomeric ring disposed in between the first flange and the inner surface of the cover to support the cover; and

a second elastomeric ring disposed in between the second flange and the inner surface of the cover to support the cover

wherein the first and second flanges and the cylindrical cover all remain stationary with respect to the seal pedestal, wherein the second flange comprises a shoulder with a projection

having an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the cover, so that the cover is restrained from axial movement in one direction by the projection.

35. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly according to claim 34, wherein the first flange comprises a shoulder that supports the first elastomeric ring, having an outer diameter of the first flange being less than the inner diameter of the cover, and with the cover extending over the first flange.

36-37 (Cancelled).

38. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly according to claim 34, wherein the cover is made from stainless steel.

39. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 34, wherein the cover is substantially restrained axially and radially by the first and second elastomeric rings, without any direct touching contact between the cover and the first and second flanges

40. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 34, wherein the first and second elastomeric rings each comprise rubber O-rings.

41. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 40, wherein the O-rings have a substantially circular cross section.

42. (Currently Amended) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

a concentric speed reducing means having a first end and a second end, with the first end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the motor assembly and the second end adapted to be rigidly mounted to the seal pedestal;

a first flange at the first end of the speed reducing means;

a second flange at the second end of the speed reducing means;

covering means for covering the speed reducing means, that has an inner surface that defines an inner diameter and substantially surrounds the speed reducing means and substantially extends from the first end of the speed reducing means to the second end of the speed reducing means;

a first elastomeric sealing and supporting means disposed in between the first flange and in the inner surface of the covering means to support the covering means; and

a second elastomeric sealing and supporting means that is disposed in between the second flange and the inner surface of the second end of the covering means to support the covering means, and

wherein the first and second flanges and the ~~cylindrical covers~~ covering means all remain stationary with respect to the seal pedestal, wherein the second flange comprises a shoulder with a projection having an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the covering means, so that the covering means is restrained from axial movement in one direction by the projection.

43. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly according to claim 42, wherein the first flange comprises a shoulder that supports the first elastomeric sealing and supporting means,

having an outer diameter of the first flange being less than the inner diameter of the covering means, and with the covering means extending over the first flange.

44 and 45 (Cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly according to claim 42, wherein the covering means is made from stainless steel.

47. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 42, wherein the covering means is restrained substantially axially and radially by the elastomeric sealing and supporting means, without any direct touching contact between the covering means and the first and second flanges

48. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 42, wherein the first and second elastomeric sealing and supporting means each comprise rubber O-rings.

49. (Previously Presented) The drive assembly of claim 48, wherein the O-rings have a substantially circular cross section.

50-62 (Cancelled).